



## Q&A for Adopted Amendments to Chapters 246-260 and 246-262 WAC

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### For Pool Owners & Operators—

***The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB) requires owners of all existing pools and spas serving the public to replace or upgrade their main drain suction outlets to meet a federal design standard. With the adopted amendments, do the state rules now require owners to upgrade their pool's main drains?***

ANSWER: No. The amended water recreation facility rules achieve consistency with the design standards for main drains and other suction outlets established by VGB. The updated state design standards apply to new construction and remodeling projects. The amended rules do not adopt the VGB requirement that all existing public pools and spas upgrade their main drain suction outlets. That requirement remains solely at the federal level and is enforced by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

When a facility owner decides to comply with the VGB requirement to replace or upgrade equipment, the construction work needed to make the equipment changes may be subject to state or local health department review. If your pool is in Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish or Spokane County, contact your local health department to identify if the work you are planning to do requires plan review. For all other counties, see our guidance document, "Determining When Pool Plan Review is Required by the Health Department" at [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/wr/guidance-vgbplanreview.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/wr/guidance-vgbplanreview.pdf).

***We have not yet upgraded our single drain system to meet VGB. We are saving money to convert to a dual drain system. Will these new state rules impact this work?***

ANSWER: Yes, to a limited degree. Conversion of a single drain to a dual drain requires plan review and approval by the health department. Starting in December 2008, health departments reviewing pool plans have been applying both state and federal design standards. The updated rules amended the state rules to align with the federal design standards. Now that the amended rules are in effect health department plan reviewers will, in essence, be applying the federal design standards when they apply the updated state rules.

***With the proposed changes to the state rules, will the local health jurisdiction inspect our pool to see if we have upgraded our pool's main drain suction outlet and covers to comply with the federal law?***

ANSWER: No, not as a result of the amended rules. Local health jurisdictions regularly inspect water recreation facilities for compliance with the state rules. They may inspect for compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. The amended rules do not require that they do so.

### For Pool Designers & Builders—

***For the past year we have been designing pools and spas to meet VGB. What impact will the proposed new state rules have on our future design work?***

ANSWER: The technical design standards applied under the amended state rules will be no different than those currently being applied during health department plan review.

Since the VGB took effect in December 2008, Washington State has been applying the federal technical standards for suction outlets to new construction and remodeling projects. The proposed rules update technical design standards so that the state rules will be consistent with the federal standards. Design review and approval for new construction and remodeling projects according to the updated state technical standards will also meet the existing federal technical standards.